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The Arizona Beehive Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Happy Day! All Is Well...

ON THE COVER

Elders Rasband and Gong Kickoff the Mesa Temple Open House, October 11, 2021

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Photo by Kary Ann Hoopes

Happy Day!

Newly-renovated Mesa Temple Draws Apostles and Crowds

By Merry Gordon

"We have such a strong belief in the eternal nature of men and women."

Those were the words of Elder Ronald A. Rasband as he explained the importance of temples. Elder Rasband recently led a tour of the newly-updated Mesa Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After an extensive three-year renovation project, the temple will be rededicated this December.

The temple, first dedicated nearly one hundred years ago, was only the seventh operating temple and the first in Arizona. Following expansion, the historic temple was rededicated once before, back in 1975. The Mesa Temple is now one of six in the state, including sites in Tucson, Gilbert, Phoenix, Snowflake and Gila Valley, but its longtime presence in Mesa has given it a special prominence in the community.

"The temple has been the heart of downtown for over one hundred years," said Mesa Mayor John Giles at the press conference accompanying the tour. "Mesa needed a partner willing to demonstrate faith in downtown, and the Church is in the faith business."

Giles' excitement was palpable as he discussed the revitalization of his city. "It's a completely different place," he said, while noting that the temple has always held "great meaning" for his city.

Elders Rasband and Elder Gerrit W. Gong led a media tour through the temple prior to the free public open house.

Elder Gong spoke on dual themes

Continued on pg. 5

Photo by Kary Ann Hoopes

Elder Rasband prepares to escort a media throng through the Mesa Temple.

What's The Buzz?

"I love to see the temple.
I'm going there someday
To feel the Holy Spirit,
To listen and to pray...
For the temple is a house of God,
A place of love and beauty."

From: Children's Songbook: #95 "I Love to See the Temple"

I have recently gained a testimony that the Open House lead-up event is just as critical to a temple re-opening process as is the re-dedication itself. Not just from a public relations standpoint, but from primarily a spiritual standpoint. I should have known!

As a member of the local media, The Arizona Beehive Magazine was invited to participate in an October 11th "Media Day." When this event was announced, I was very excited to take part, understanding that some of our team and myself would be given an opportunity to tour the temple before the official October 16 - November 20 Open Hour tours began. How wonderful that would be!

As the day approached for Media Day, the Church announced that Elders Ronald A. Rasband and Gerrit W. Gong would be in attendance. Marvelous! We would be in the presence of two members of the Quorum of the Twelve as they addressed the media about our temple. Elders Rasband and Gong were indeed the first two speakers at the Visitors Center gathering. Following all presentations, Media Specialist for the Metro Phoenix Communication Council of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Jennifer Wheeler announced that the entire media delegation would be split into two tour groups, each group being led by either Elder Rasband or Elder Gong...

There are times when work is work. We all have those days on the job. But this was not one of those days! We were led through the temple by an apostle of God. Elder Rasband guided our group, offering insight that only an Apostle could provide, combined with perspective every temple-worthy member shares. Apostles are people, too, it turns out! The tour was as much of a spiritual experience as one would imagine. Even in a not-yet-dedicated temple.

I acquired the Arizona Beehive from the Taylor Family just over 4 years ago. Owning and operating a print media company in a digital age ravaged by Covid has been as challenging as one might expect. Walking through the halls of the exquisitely refreshed Mesa temple with a Witness of Jesus Christ merely because I own this magazine is a blessing I'll never be able to repay, and one I'll forever treasure. This Church is true. Thank you for making The Arizona Beehive Magazine part of your life...

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Elder and Sister Gong enjoy a moment together at Mesa Temple Open House Media Day.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Elder Ronald A. Rasband and The Arizona Beehive Magazine Owner/Publisher Michael J. O'Brien at Mesa Temple Visitors Center Open House Media Day.

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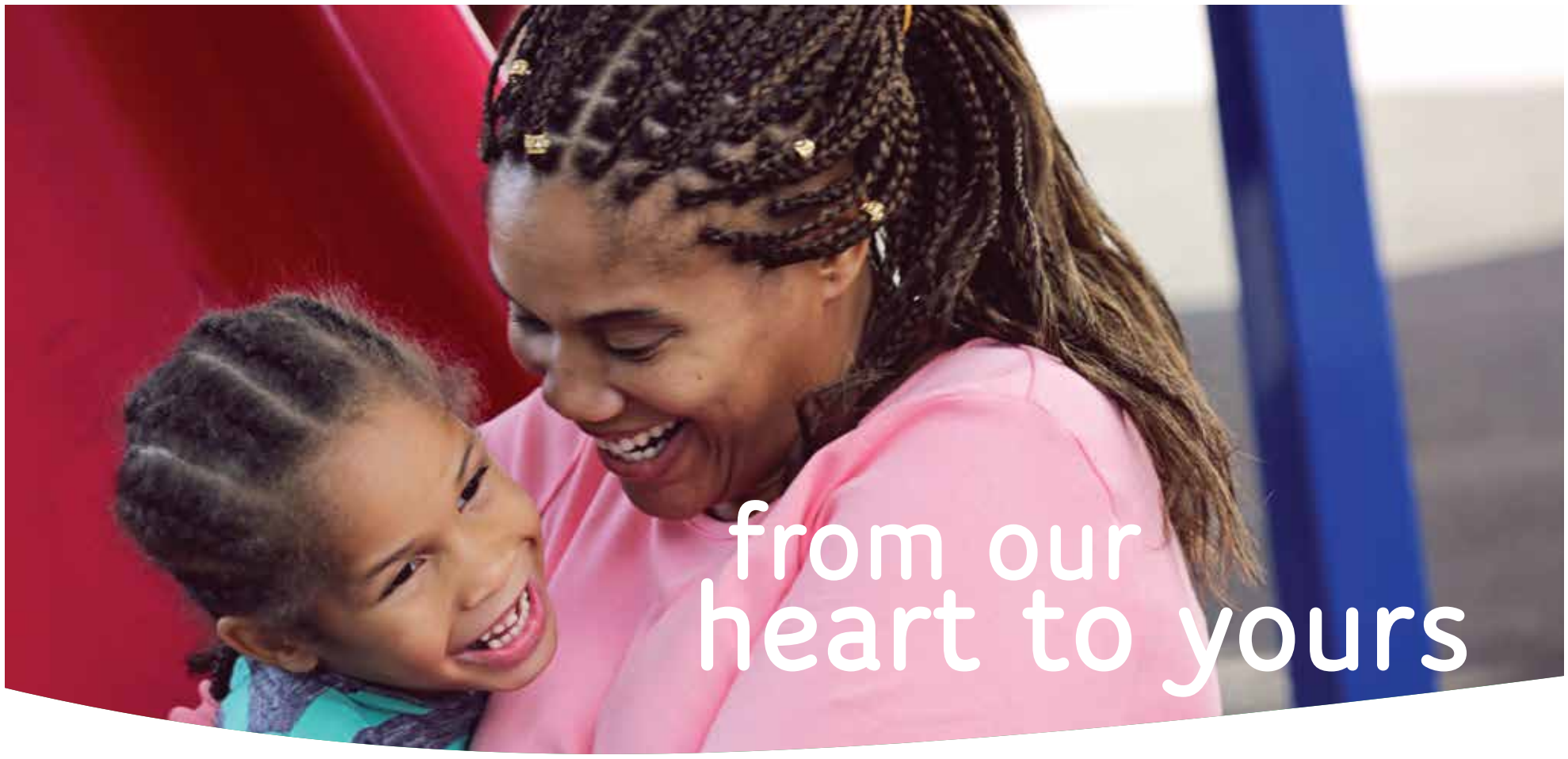

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Hope & Healing for Veterans
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New Home Starter Kit
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a new leaf

that both touched on the rededication of the temple: God loves all His children and the temple is a place of sacred time and space where "everything is designed to inspire and uplift."

Elder Rasband added that "the concept [of temple service] is equality," noting the white clothing uniformly donned by Church members who participate in temple ordinances. The temple, he says, can serve as a great means of unification in that sense, both physically and spiritually.

"In a world that is fueled by contention and conflict—even to some small degree in the Church—we want very, very much to be a haven for unity and a sense of peace."

Elder Rasband spoke tenderly of the "most difficult day" for him, when President Nelson announced the closure of the temples: "He had tears in his eyes," Elder Rasband stated.

"The pandemic has been hard on our people. But people are flooding back [to the temples]. They've missed it."

To members who have not yet returned to Sunday sacrament meetings or to the temple, Elder Rasband offered loving counsel: "Ultimately, we need to follow the scriptures. Members need 'to meet together oft,'" said Elder Rasband. "It's not just a good idea—we are commanded."

To Elder Rasband, the Mesa Temple is special, being the home temple for his daughter, her husband and four grandchildren living in Queen Creek.

While his connection is primarily through his children, he also spoke of being touched by meeting members in Mexico and Central and South America who had saved for years to be sealed in the Mesa Temple—the closest temple at the time.

"For many years, the Mesa Temple was an island," Elder Rasband said. "It is a special place."

For Sister Deanna Scabby, a member of the Papago Ward and the tribal council of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community, the temple rededication after such a long absence took on poignant personal meaning.

Scabby saw the temple often in her youth. "That's the most beautiful library I've ever seen," she thought, and she vowed she'd go inside someday. One day, she did return—to marry her sweetheart, who passed away about a year ago.

Now Scabby will return in Janu-

Continued on pg. 7

Photo by Robin Finlinson
Elder Ronald A. Rasband kicks off Mesa Temple Open House Media Day.

Photo by Robin Finlinson
Sister Melanie Rasband and Elder Ronald A. Rasband pose at the Mesa Temple Visitors Center on Media Day.

Photo by Kary Ann Hoopes
Visitors prepare to tour the temple.

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Photo by Kary Ann Hoopes
Youth residing in the Mesa Temple District toured the temple on October 8th.

Mesa Temple Tours

Continued from pg. 5

ary to see her son, his wife and their baby girl sealed together on January 8th, what would have been her husband's 69th birthday.

She feels her husband's presence most strongly in the celestial room: "When you go in there, everyone feels that reverence, that love in the room."

Elder Rasband spoke on the sacred nature of the celestial room, citing a remark by President Hinckley that referred to the room as "God's living room." Certainly, the opulent neoclassical fixtures speak to all things heavenly. Stately walnut doors, Axminster carpet patterns, an art-glass skylight and Spanish stonework are among the interior features temple patrons will enjoy. Elder Rasband also remarked that even after visiting over 80 temples during his Church tenure, he finds the Mesa Temple's baptistery the most beautiful he's ever seen.

The temple's most recent rededication is slated for Sunday, December 12, and will be preceded by a youth devotional the Saturday before. President Dallin H. Oaks will preside over the rededication, which will hold sessions at 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m.

The renovation was part of a revitalization project that redeveloped much of the area immediately surrounding the Mesa Temple. The old visitors' center was razed and the new Mesa Visitors' Center was constructed in its place. The center was dedicated on August 12 and features interactive media and flexible spaces designed to facilitate a variety of spiritual experiences, both communal and individual.

Inside, the Mesa Temple has been lovingly redesigned and redecorated with an eye to its past even as it accommodates for the future. Many historic features and details have been retained, down to paint colors and terracotta tiles, but patrons will find new murals by Linda Curley Christensen and her team of artists, who painted oversized canvases after consulting original photographs of the temple.

The temple exterior also got a facelift. The two reflecting pools, iconic to so many Latter-day Saints' wedding pictures, remain, but the grounds have been refreshed by the addition of new vegetation. With the relocation of the visitors' center, the temple and grounds can now be seen from Main Street.

Open house temple tours have been ongoing and will conclude on November 20. By the end of the open house, an estimated 500,000 people will have toured the sacred space. Interest is high, considering both the historic nature of the temple and its popularity—prior to the pandemic and the renovation of the grounds. The temple's annual Easter Pageant and Christmas lights display drew crowds from all across the state. Nonmember patrons from all walks of life come to experience the joy and beauty of Christ's life and resurrection in story and song while members can go inside and do the sacred work that links generations.

"Truly, temples are the pinnacle of peace, the pinnacle of unity," affirmed Elder Rasband.

Mesa Temple Open House Tours run through November 20, 2021. Visit MesaTemple.org to schedule your free visit.

Photo by Robin Finlinson
The Christus overlooks proceedings at Mesa Temple Open House Media Day.

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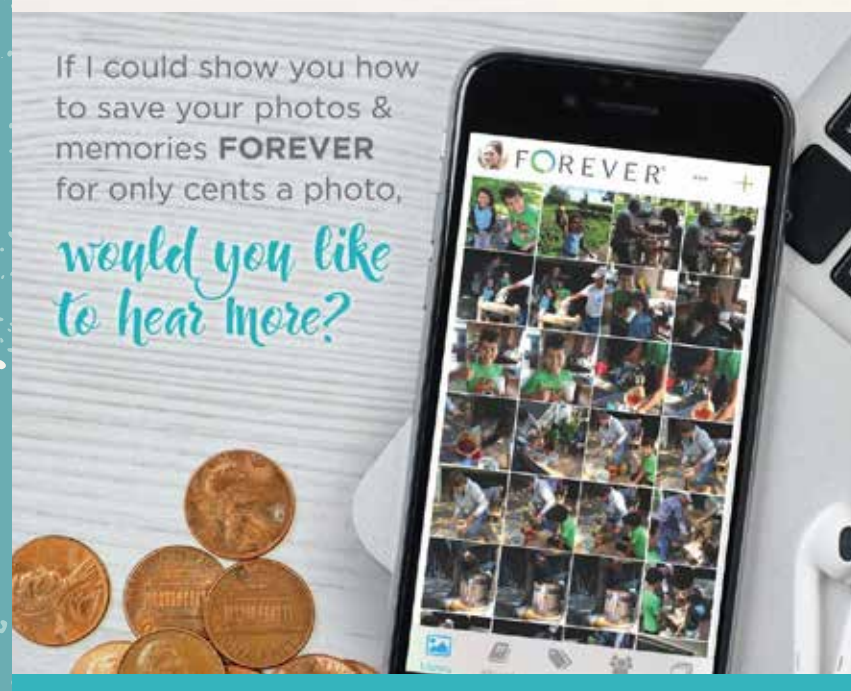

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5 FOR $25

Holiday Happenings For A Happy Family

By RuthAnn Hogue

Check out these five great family activities for under $25 per person – AND they're close to home!

Who needs a white Christmas with all there is to do in the Valley of the Sun this holiday season? We've rounded up free or low-cost events from glittering lights to holiday parades and festivals to get even the Grinchiest desert dweller into the holiday spirit.

Photo by queencreekparade.org

Queen Creek Holiday Festival & Parade

#1 Queen Creek Holiday Festival & Parade:

Saturday, Dec. 4, at Desert Mountain Park, 22201 S. Hawes Rd. in Queen Creek. Organized by the QC Kiwanis Club, proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley-Queen Creek Branch. Enjoy the parade at 10 a.m. beginning on Hawes Road between Chandler Heights and Ocotillo Roads and ending in front of Desert Mountain Park.

Enjoy the Holiday Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Desert Mountain Park. The parade is free, but you'll want to bring pocket money for craft and food vendors, and plenty of activities for the kids. Call 480-231-8959 to confirm. For information, visit www.queencreekchamber.org.

Photo by apachejunctionaz.gov

Holiday Light Parade in Apache Junction

#2 Holiday Light Parade:

Apache Junction, Friday, Nov. 12. Complete with Santa, activities for the kids and live entertainment for the family. Call 480-982-3141 to confirm details.

Photo by phoenixzoo.org

Phoenix Zoo Lights

#4 Phoenix ZooLights:

Always a holiday must-see! $7/person advance online tickets. 5:30 to 10:30 p.m Sunday, Nov. 7 through Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, at 455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix. Call 602-273-1341 to confirm or visit www.phoenixzoo.org.

Photo by visitglendale.com

Glendale Glitters & Holiday Lights

#3 Glendale Glitters & Holiday Lights:

Friday, Nov. 19 – Saturday, Nov. 20 at North 58th and West Glendale Avenues in Glendale. Admission is free. Parking and shuttles are available from Glendale Community College. Bring warm scarves, mittens and comfortable shoes to enjoy all 12 blocks. Holiday Lights begin Friday after Thanksgiving through the second week of January. 5 to 10pm. Stroll through Old Towne and Caitlin Court while admiring nearly a million twinkling lights, all at no charge! Call ahead to confirm; for information, visit glendaleaz.com/events.

Photo by therailroadpark.com

Railroad Park Holiday Lights

#5 Railroad Park Holiday Lights:

In the mood for a free tree lighting, complete with a visit from Santa? Check out the program from 6:30 to 9 p.m. nightly Tuesday, Nov. 30, to Wednesday, Dec. 29, at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road in Phoenix. Admission is free but come prepared to pay a small fee for carousel and train rides. Call 480-312-2312 to confirm. For information, visit www.therailroadpark.com. Please note the event will not take place on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

CHRIST-CENTERED CELEBRATIONS

Enriching Your Holiday Season

By Allison Beckert

Photo by Church Media Library

Mary with baby Jesus, nativity figure.

Every Christmas is an opportunity to create memories and build traditions our families can rely on to highlight the year. One constant goal many families pursue each holiday season is finding faith-building activities. Thankfully, there are varieties of options available to members at all stages of life and all shapes of family.

Studying the scriptures with a focus on Christ and the miracles surrounding His birth and life should be the foundation of any Christ-centered Christmas celebration. *Come, Follow Me* for December focuses on the Articles of Faith and the recent formal statements made by the prophets and apostles, with the week of Christmas centered on "The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles." These current declarations of faith and Christ-centered doctrine will strengthen family study of the nativity story. Look for guides and supporting material to make this year's celebration scripture-centered and insightful. Accessory programs and creators, like David Butler and Emily Freeman of *Don't Miss This* on Youtube, have holiday specials and books or calendars to add layers of meaning to our reading and traditions for the holiday. Keep an eye out for advent calendars, activity lists for younger children and service guides for older kids and families.

Light the World has made each year special with service challenges, social activities, and online calls to action that have quite literally changed the world for families and causes in need. Keep connected for announcements and locations for this year's challenges at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist. Be safe and aware of local and state guidelines when participating this year, just like last year.

Christmas traditions should be mindfully made and maintained. If there has been a story or a tradition that made your holiday special growing up, consider either sharing that tradition or looking for a new one to share with your family. These can come from anywhere, but stories are a special source. One source sure to become a favorite, for all times of the year but for more Christ-centered celebrations, is *Jesus the Christ*, the filmed version released earlier this year. For more written stories and collections, take time to visit a Deseret Bookstore near you or other church bookstore online for holiday classics, like *Christmas Jars* by Jonathan Wright, *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, and others. Ask around to your friends of family for their favorites.

Finally, incorporate the temple into this year's holiday. The Mesa Temple reopening is a milestone for the state and a special moment in church history. The temple will be participating in the holiday with lights, though the concert programs that have graced the grounds in previous years will not be taking place. Follow the news on https://churchofjesuschristtemples.org/mesa-arizona-temple/news/ and the Mesa Temple's social media for updates, as well as announcements made at ward and stake level if you are within the Mesa Temple district.

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SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Restful Holiday Remedies

By Merry Gordon

As the holiday season draws near, so too does the whirlwind of social and spiritual events that keep us spinning from November to January. With so much to do, that "long winter's nap" we settled our brains for in the cherished Christmas poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" seems like...well, a dream. If your rest is less than restful, reset your sleep cycle for some seasonal shut-eye.

Get Into A Routine

The key to a healthy sleep cycle is a regime that alerts your body to prepare for bedtime. Human beings are creatures of habit: simply picking and sticking to a consistent bedtime and wake-up time can cue your brain to states of alertness and states of rest. And if an evening of caroling and hot cocoa keeps you up a little later, science says it's better to rise with your alarm clock rather than sleep in—you might feel a little groggy, but one late night probably won't destroy your sleep cycle unless that one late night turns into a late morning, too. Skip the next-day nap unless you're really in need of restoration, because a little too much daytime slumber can push your bedtime later. Some sunshine and exercise can go a long way in waking your body up. If you're tired the morning after a holiday party, get outside, get moving and stick to your usual bedtime for an easier return to your circadian rhythm.

Swap Harmful Habits With Healthy Ones

Holiday rituals aren't conducive to the most restful sleep: after all, we're eating large, late, carb-heavy meals and checking in more often on social media as we document the festivities. Our bodies may not be primed for sleep when we're finally ready to tuck in for the night—even when that post-dinner "turkey coma" sets in. The occasional indulgence won't kill you, of course, but lightening the load a little when it comes to eating near bedtime will improve your sleep quality. Likewise, step away from the screen a few hours before bed. Back-lit electronics can interfere with the production of melatonin and cause sleeplessness. Trade scrolling through social media an hour before bed for a warm bubble bath and some quiet meditation in a low-lit room. Your brain will thank you.

Photo by Ryan McGuire from Pixabay

Hoping for that "long winter's nap" this Christmas?

'Tis the season...for insomnia! Photo by Schubinger from Pixabay

Let Mother Nature help

No need to pop a sleeping pill when the occasional bout of seasonal insomnia strikes. Natural remedies can ease you into a gentle sleep with fewer side effects. Lavender essential oils not only smell great, they also have a sedative effect when used at night. If you're a tea lover, chamomile can help you get your Z's—just be careful not to drink too much too close to bed, or you might be running for the bathroom every few hours. Finally, try some melatonin. It's a hormone found naturally in your body, one that signals your brain to get ready for rest. Just a few drops before bed can help you fall asleep faster and rest a little longer.

With just a few adjustments to your holiday habits, you'll be sleeping in heavenly peace in no time.

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This 300-year-old Blanket Has a Story to Tell

By Cindy R Williams

The Blanket is the story of a 300-year-old blanket and the lives of its owners. The book shares true history and great wisdom through an old and patched blanket as it travels from its creation in Sweden to a journey through England and finally the New World.

Author Stan Williams says, "Because of family obligations and working long hours, my research took about 25 years."

"My inspiration to write this was my grandmother's stories about the blanket and her desire to have her families' history told," he says.

His grandmother trusted him to write it since Williams had stories and books published over the years.

The story is more than just a story—it's history. "In some cases, names of non-historical persons have been changed. But the stories of actual persons of history were actually involved in the actions depicted," Williams adds.

"If the Blanket could talk, it would tell of the sorrow and pain of settling a new country, of being happy to have protected the babies, the ill and newly-wed of the Kier family."

The blanket is known to have been with the Sons of Liberty when "the shot heard around the world" was fired. It traveled with settlers to Arizona, passing through Tombstone, Tucson, Prescott and Glendale. It was in San Juan, Cuba, with Teddy's Rough Riders. Pieces of the blanket even date to WWII and Vietnam.

Photo courtesy of Stan Williams

The 300-year-old blanket.

Williams says, "The story is told from journals and news accounts that were saved by the many owners as it was handed down from family member to family member. It is a fun read and interesting slice of American history," says Williams.

"My target audience is high school- and college-aged persons who want an 'un-woke' version of how Europeans did make American great."

The actual blanket, along with the original trunk it came to Ohio in during the Civil War, now resides with Williams' sister.

The book is available on Amazon, Kindle, Ebooks and Barnes and Noble. It is also sold on most Saturdays at the "Coin Space" at the Apache Swap meet in Apache Junction. Stan Williams is there to autograph all books sold.

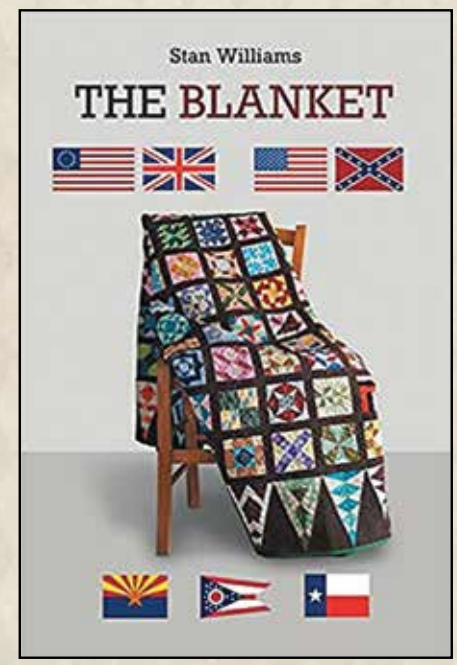

Photo courtesy of Stan Williams

***The Blanket* by Stan Williams.**

“WHERE THEY ACCEPT ME, I EXCEL”

Local Author Celebrates Children With New Book

By Emily Jex Boyle

Photo by Abigail Dominguez

Local author Abigail Ekua Dominguez thoughtfully recorded moments with children in her book *Heart to Heart with Abigaba* beautifully attests to the true nature and heart of children.

A Birthday Gift for Herself

Home life in Ghana, West Africa, was not ideal for Abigail Ekua Dominguez. At age 5, she worked so hard she fell asleep in school. When a fellow student commented on the holes in Abigail’s shoes, she felt mortified. As a young girl, she fondly remembers a sweet grandmother listening as Abigail would talk. At age 10, she found her birth certificate in her father’s things. Up until then, she didn’t even know her birthday. At age 17, Abigail picked her own birthday gift, a journal with a dedication to herself.

In her twenties, Abigail immigrated to the United States and today lives in Arizona. For her, the journals became a pathway to record life’s moments, a way to find escape and healing. Through the years, she’s watched her journals evolve and multiply. She still keeps written journals, but she captures life’s moments using video and audio recordings available on her phone as well. When asked when she journals, her response is, “If I’m sad, I do it right there and then. If I talk through it, I feel better.” Many of her journal entries she calls “Dear God letters.”

Photo by Emily Boyle

On September 23, Abigail launched her first published book at the Mesa Interstake Center’s Immigrant Welcome Center. “She has eighteen years of experiences that have culminated within her,” remarks her husband, Jeffrey Dominguez. “She had to put it down. This is a book about being a nanny and an immigrant in the United States.”

Adding her voice

In 2019, one of her courses affected her deeply while enrolled with BYU-Idaho online courses in child development. She studied at-risk factors and began to see staggering global statistics on children and families. Classes and dreams motivated her. Considering the challenges of her own childhood, Abigail says, “I realized I wanted to add my voice to support children. I know children can thrive with love. I wanted to help give people eyes to look at children differently.”

In her first published book, *Heart to Heart with Abagaba—A Nanny/Teacher Reflection*, Abigail shares over one hundred vignette moments captured with children through years of interacting with them as a nanny or teacher. “Children observe and say things from their perspective,” Abigail says. In the book, her thoughtfully recorded moments beautifully attest to the true nature and heart of children.

On September 23, Abigail launched her first published book at the Mesa Interstake Center’s Immigrant Welcome Center. “She has eighteen years of experiences that have culminated within her,” remarks her husband, Jeffrey Dominguez. “She had to put it down. This is a book about being a nanny and an immigrant in the United States.”

Currently employed by the Maricopa County Head Start program, Abigail feels gratitude as she sees those already recognizing the value of the book. She hopes *Heart to Heart with Abagaba* will touch many lives. She particularly hopes it will make a difference in a young child’s life.

In 2013, on her 16th birthday, Malala Yousafzai challenged the world in her moving speech before the United Nations when she said, “Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.” Abigail echoes that truth of one child’s potential in her own words: “Where they accept me, I excel.”

Abigail’s book is available for purchase on Amazon.

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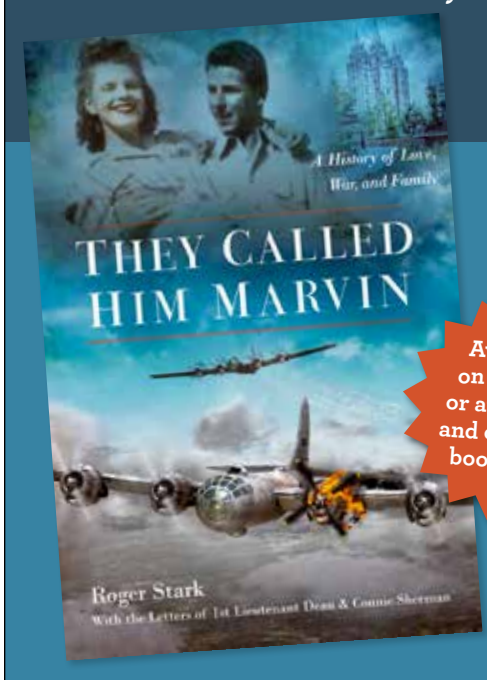
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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Mission Holiday Traditions

By Allison Beckert

Holidays away from home are challenging—but exciting too. Every year is special, especially when you're in the middle of a noble work. Traditions tie families and friends together, so take some time to look at favorite traditions within your circles and in your assigned mission that you love and want to continue in your travels. It could be that you add even more magic to your celebrations to carry home with you.

As part of preparing for a mission, family history will give you experience with genealogy and can connect you with meaningful elements of your family's heritage. This can be as direct as a recipe a grandparent passed down to a poem your sibling wrote and shared one Christmas. It can also be a chance for deeper learning. Do you have strong roots across the sea? Take some time as a family to learn how some of your ancestors may have celebrated the winter holidays. Has your family lived many generations in one place? What is it about your hometown that you want to share with others?

Photo by Church Media Library

Talents are some of your most valuable tools in the mission field and sharing your talents will touch everyone in your life.

Spending the holiday away from home is stressful, but one solution is to cultivate curiosity. Show your area and members some love. Ask members in your area what traditions they have for the holidays. Take some time to look into local events, festive dishes, and favorite traditions. If it's approved by your mission, volunteer to help. This is a special way to serve and can be a great lesson in what it takes to make the magic happen!

Each mission is unique: as your family in the field, don't be surprised to find more seasoned missionaries preparing for and sharing traditions with you that are unique to your group. Mission presidents sometimes bring traditions with them as well and share that with the missionaries in their care. It's not uncommon to have a holiday party with your area, zone or a full mission gathering! Gifts aren't required, but if you do want to give gifts, meaning matters. Use your talents! Bring your camera and enjoy the festive time together.

Remember to be flexible. Go with the flow. Just as you bring expectations with you, so do your companions and so do members you will work with. A companionship has many challenges while learning to work and live together but creating a safe space where each of you can share something meaningful without judgement or pressure can be easiest during the holiday season. Exercise humility with all the new experiences, gratitude for the familiar ones, as well as thankfulness for those who welcome you into their traditions.

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Grateful, Happy & Pleasant

Reducing Stress In Your Holiday Relationships

By Heather Sandstrom

The Sandstrom family celebrates together. **Photo by Heather Sandstrom**

Holidays can be the most stressful time of year. So many things are going on: planning huge events, decorating, buying gifts, budgeting, going to recitals, concerts and parties, and dealing with family expectations and relationships. Also, deciding whose family to spend the holiday with can be difficult. It's important not to let our stress levels rub off on everyone around us, but instead be grateful, happy, positive and pleasant to be around.

One way to help reduce stress during the holidays is by complimenting those around us. President Abraham Lincoln once stated, "Everybody likes a compliment." The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated. If we can look for a good quality in another person and sincerely compliment them, it's amazing how people respond. People put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval than they would ever do under a spirit of criticism.

Another way to improve relationships during the holidays is to not criticize, condemn or complain. Benjamin Franklin was so diplomatic at handling people that he was made the American ambassador to France. The secret of his success? He wrote, "I resolve to speak ill of no man whatever . . . and upon proper occasions speak all the good I know of everybody." What a great quality!

Anyone can criticize, condemn and complain, and most people do. It takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving. A great person shows his greatness by how he treats everyone.

When you talk about your children and your spouse, say something positive about them, especially when they're listening. Even if they act like they're not, they will internalize what you say and become that person. I really believe this! Instead of condemning people, let's try to understand them.

By doing service for others during the holidays, we can lighten our own burdens: "When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).

Some other techniques you can try for preventing stress and depression, especially during the holidays are:

- Acknowledge your feelings. Realize it's normal to feel sadness, grief and stress.
- Reach out to others. Contact a friend or family about your feelings, and help others.
- Be realistic. Families and traditions change and grow over the years; choose to hold on to a few traditions and be open to creating new ones.
- Set aside differences. Try to accept others as they are, even if they don't live up to expectations.
- Stick to a budget. Decide ahead of time how much you can spend.
- Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking and other activities.
- Learn to say no. Don't overcommit: friends and family will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity.
- Don't abandon healthy habits. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt.
- Take a breather. Make some time to clear your mind and remember to enjoy yourself.
- Take control of the holidays. Learn to recognize your holiday triggers, such as financial pressure and holiday demands.

By following some or all of these principles, you can help make the holidays less stressful for yourself and those around you. With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace and joy during the holidays.

A sweet family nativity. **Photo by Heather Sandstrom**

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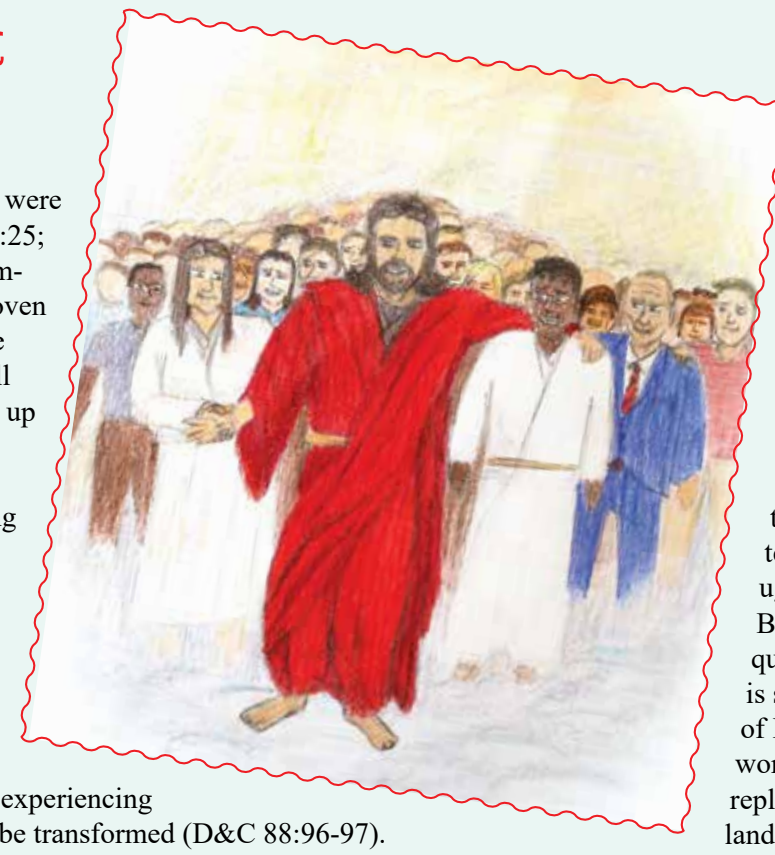
Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings assigned in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* for November through December, comprising Doctrine and Covenants chapters 133-138.

Rescued, Transformed & Reunited:

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

By Robin Finlinson



Original artwork by Tanner Finlinson, age 14

When Jesus Christ returns in glory and power, He will wear red. The valiant covenant keepers of every era, nation and race will be caught up with Him in the clouds.

The manual points out an interesting fact about Christmas hymns: some tell of Jesus Christ's *Second* Coming. Two of them will serve as a springboard into portions of that vast topic.

"Joy to the World" encourages, "Rejoice! Rejoice when Jesus reigns," referring to His Millennial reign as King over the whole world. "No more will sin and sorrow grow," because at that time, only people who honor Him will remain on earth. Those who torment their fellow man must be removed so the work of the Lord may proceed without obstructions, and so they can each pay the full price for their terror in the presence of the master they chose to serve until the end of the Millennium.

As the parable of the ten virgins teaches, people are held accountable to God individually; while mere association with a particular group *might* imply guilt, association with any church doesn't guarantee worthiness (Matthew 25:1-13).

The parable also teaches of the Lord rewarding those prepared for His return in a grand celebration, elaborated upon in various scripture verses. Even the ancient Saints heard of the Second Coming, and were buoyed up in the knowledge that they too could participate in it (Colossians 3:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18).

"Both the righteous living and the celestial dead will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air…" (Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual, 1981, p. 405.) People will literally be lifted off the ground.

They are "the church of the Firstborn," the valiant of every era, nation and race who have made and honored all requisite covenants with God—in mortality or afterward (D&C 76:50-70). Spirits of those who have died will be reunited with their bodies, perfected and glorified.

Enoch and his people, for example, will attend. Even more significant will be the reunion of beloved family members and ancestors known only from stories shared between generations.

Because a fulness of joy requires a tangible body (D&C 138:17), existing without it feels like captivity (D&C 138:50). Being able to hug family and friends again will seem liberating.

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" tells of "the new heaven and earth," referring to the planet receiving its paradisiacal glory. As the human family will be reunited, so will the continents. They'll return as they were before the days of Peleg, when they were divided (Genesis 10:25; D&C 133:23-24). Immense heat like an oven will purify the globe (Malachi 4:1). It will essentially be rolled up like a scroll (Revelation 6:14), then unfolded— unveiling the Savior Himself (D&C 88:95).

To withstand such upheaval and the presence of the Lord in His glory without being destroyed, bodies still experiencing mortality must also be transformed (D&C 88:96-97).

Everyone begins life crawling on the ground like caterpillars, and many keep their eyes only on things of the earth. But all are intended to rise above it, as if with wings, when the Creator and Liberator comes.

The above-mentioned hymns together tell of "babel sounds"—ugly, false teachings of Babylon—which will be quieted as Christ's truth is spread by the House of Israel throughout the world, and blessings replace the curse upon the land.

It's time to go out from Babylon before the door of the gathering is closed (Matthew 25:6; D&C 133:10).

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STORIES BEHIND THE STARS

9/11 Service Opportunity Invites Writers To Collect Stories Of Soldiers Killed In World War Ii

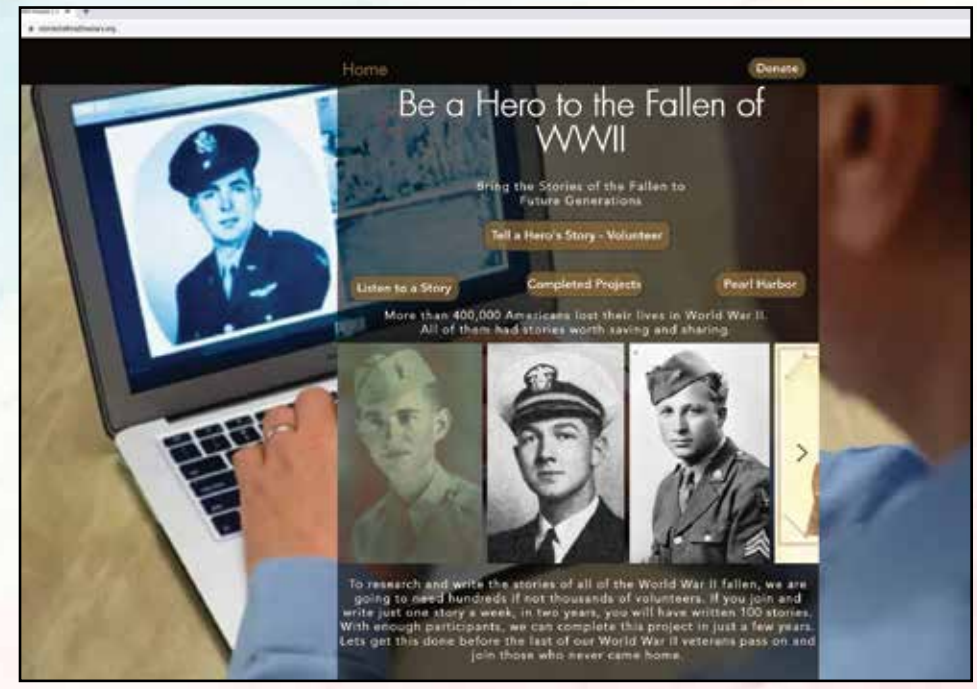
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Photo by Tony Gutiérrez

The homepage for the Stories Behind the Stars initiative features stories of soldiers who were killed during World War II. The organization invited people to join its efforts during a presentation Sept. 11 at the Gilbert Seville Stake's Lemon church building in Queen Creek.

By Tony Gutiérrez

At age 8, Stanley Crews became the breadwinner for his family when his father died in 1932. After school, he worked at his uncle's store. Right before World War II began, he enlisted as a way to continue providing for his mother and siblings.

"He survived until just about a year before the end of the war in Cabanatuan—the death camp," said Jack Chisum, head of the Arizona Chapter of Stories Behind the Stars. "He died of dysentery. His whole life was basically a week away from success."

Crews is one of thousands of soldiers killed during World War II, and his story is among the 32 Chisum has compiled as part of the Stories Behind the Stars project. Chisum spoke to a small crowd gathered at the Gilbert Seville Stake's Lemon church building September 11 to invite people to join his effort of collecting and compiling these stories, part of a Church-wide call to service on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

"Even though World War II seems like so long ago, I couldn't think of a better way to spend 9/11 than literally sitting down and concentrating on a way to serve veterans who died," Terry Giovanini-Davis, who serves as the stake's communications director, said.

"No matter where you are in the political or religious spectrum, today was a day for me to recognize that I can do something for veterans," she added. "I can physically do something, and maybe it's not for the service people who served in Afghanistan or any number of the conflicts that have taken place over the last 20 years, but

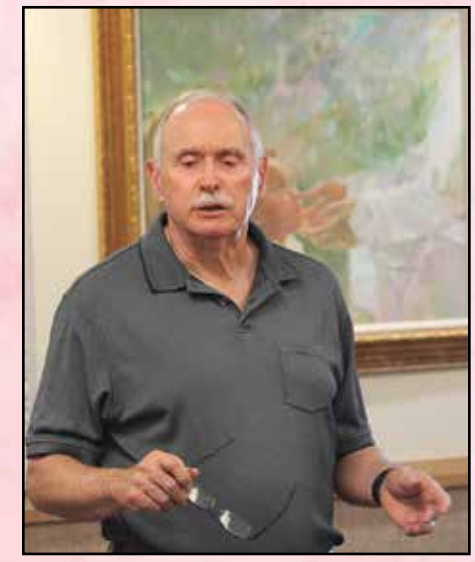

Photo by Tony Gutiérrez

Jack Chisum, head of the Arizona Chapter of Stories Behind the Stars, delivers a presentation about the organizations work in collecting stories of fallen World War II soldiers to a small crowd gathered Sept. 11 at the Gilbert Seville Stake's Lemon church building in Queen Creek.

Photo by Tony Gutiérrez

A small crowd gathered Sept. 11 at the Gilbert Seville Stake's Lemon church building in Queen Creek to learn more about the Stories Behind the Stars initiative.

Continued on pg. 26

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BYU MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Golfers Bring Their A-game For Local College Students

By Emily Jex Boyle

On a cooler September morning, with a vibrant sunrise canvasing the sky behind red rock, twenty golf carts lined up in the early light, undaunted by heated midday forecasts. Golfers came out for the 4th annual Cougar Cactus Classic Golf Tournament at Papago Golf Club in Phoenix.

Hosted by BYU Management Society (BYU MS) and with the support of its sponsors, the golf tournament raises funds to provide scholarships for Arizona college students. Scholarships are awarded to students attending multiple schools, including BYU, BYU-Hawaii, BYU-Idaho and BYU-Pathway, as well as ASU. Last year, the society awarded seven scholarships of $1,200 to $1,500.

"Playing with friends is always fun," local BYU alum, Cori Lindstrom explains, "participating for a good cause, donating scholarships."

"We love BYU," Tasha Adams says, standing beside her husband and two sons. "We graduated from BYU. Our son is there now. We love playing golf. We're very competitive and we laugh a lot when we come out. We take it seriously but not too much; it's all about

Continued on pg. 22

Photo by The Arizona Beehive

Left to right: William Carey - Dixon Golf and BYU MS Phoenix Chapter Golf Coordinator; Preston Cameron - BYU MS Phoenix Chapter Board Member; Heather Sandstrom - BYU MS Phoenix Chapter Past President; Kristine Ouzts - BYU MS Phoenix Chapter Current President; Rich Wilson - BYU MS Phoenix Chapter Past President

Photo by The Arizona Beehive

Trophy winners!

Photo by The Arizona Beehive

Preston Cameron (l) and John Lewis get ready to hit the links.

BYU Management Society Golf
Continued from pg. 21

supporting BYU."

The annual tournament brings out BYU fans and local golf aficionados.

When asked why he comes to play, former BYU and NFL athlete Dennis Pitta explains, "I've participated in this event since its inception. It's a great event; obviously anything that supports BYU and scholarship is an important cause. Anytime you can come out and play golf, have some fun in the heat, which we particularly enjoy, it's a good time. They do a great job and they make it fun for everybody. I've enjoyed coming and plan to continue to come in the future."

The Jolt team at tee box #1.

Photo by The Arizona Beehive

Former ASU and NFL athlete Todd Heap adds, "It's hometown--a lot of familiar faces, a lot of great people here so just happy to come and support."

Arizona is home to one of the largest chapters of BYU MS, a global, non-profit organization which grew out of the BYU Marriott School of Business. The organization's main focus is to foster ethical and moral leadership globally. Kristine Ouzts, chapter president, feels passionate about expanding the chapter of 1500 members as well as opening doors for chapter members. Not everyone in the chapter attended BYU or even graduated from college. Ouzts says that belonging to the chapter provides "an opportunity to develop leadership skills."

Heather Sandstrom, who sits on the international board for BYU MS shares another purpose of the society. In her church service she has seen fabulous young adults in need of connections. "One of the main purposes [of BYU MS] is networking," Sandstrom says.

Ouzts hopes to raise awareness of BYU MS as an opportunity to belong as well as an opportunity to receive scholarships, explaining, "We want to get more representation from society. Many times, those in need are not aware of such opportunities such as scholarships."

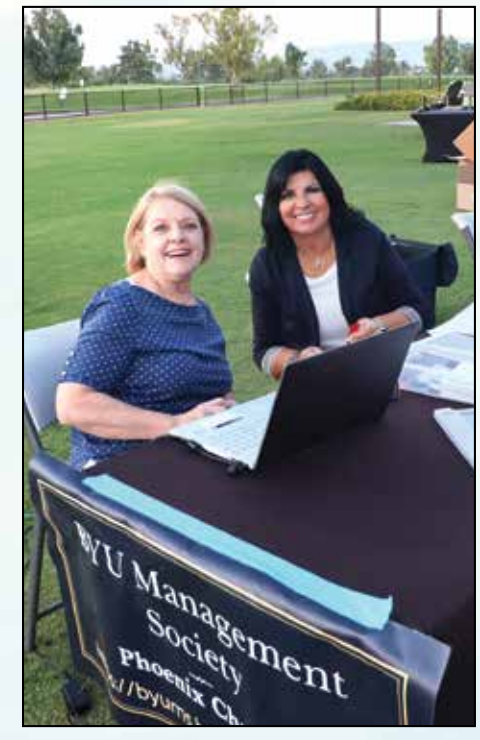

Photo by The Arizona Beehive

Kristine Ouzts (l) and Heather Sandstrom welcome and register all players.

For more information about BYU MS, the tournament and scholarships, visit https://byums.byu.edu/phoenix/

To see more images of this event, visit ArizonaBeehive.com and click on this article.

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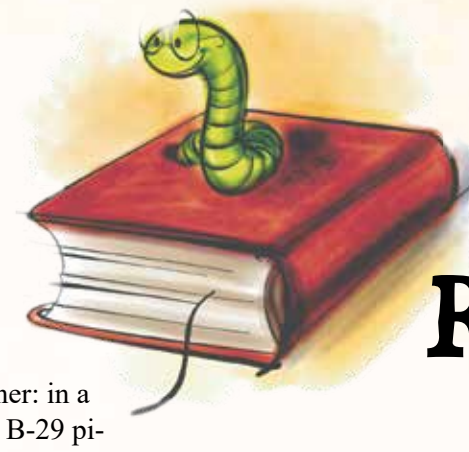
They Called Him Marvin
A Tale of Love and War



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Merry Gordon

It's the type of telegram that stopped hearts in the 1940s: "The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your husband, First Lieutenant Dean Harold Sherman, has been reported missing in action . . . ." Connie Sherman held that telegram in her shaking hands in 1945, and now, 76 years later, author Roger Stark brings the story of the Shermans to life in *They Called Him Marvin: A History of Love, War, and Family.*

Dean Sherman's service in the 1940s took him all over the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. His cheery letters speak of war bonds, USO stage shows and Armed Forces Radio, with few hints of the horrors of war—but certainly, he knew such atrocities intimately.

The "Marvin" of the title is Sherman's infant son, grown to manhood a "half orphan," like so many children of his generation. Marv never knew his father: in a tragic twist of fate, Dean Sherman, a B-29 pilot, was shot down over Japan just months after the birth of his boy and just months before the close of the war.

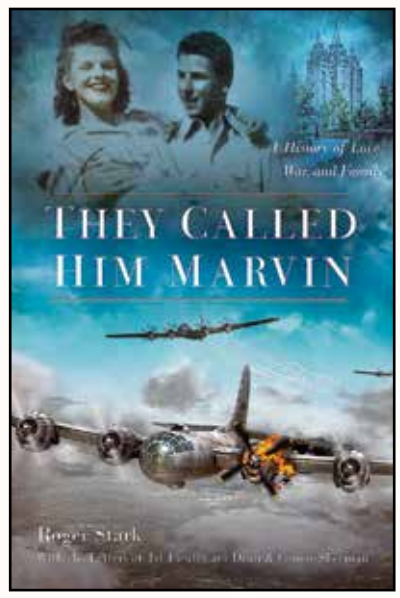


Photo via Amazon.com

They Called Him Marvin: A History of Love, War, and Family **details the life of First Lieutenant Dean Harold Sherman and the young bride he left behind.**

"There are stories," Stark writes, "that demand to be told. When we hear them, we must pick up our pen, lest we forget and the stories be lost." For Stark, Marv's father's tale was that story, and Stark fills in the timetable of Sherman's war service with fictionalized conversations that bring his research to life.

The true focus of the book, however, is the relationship between Sherman and the small family he left behind him. The pages contain 67 letters between Connie and Dean, "Sugar Reports" that speak of their deepening love against the backdrop of the Second World War. Sherman proposed on the eve of Pearl Harbor—an inauspicious start to their happily-ever-after, but the couple weathered the storms of war with faith and commitment in the face of an uncertain future. The extensive use of primary source letters means that romance readers may enjoy the book more than WWII buffs, in fact. But Sherman's letters to his "Dearest Peach Blossom" are a poignant reminder of the individual costs in the Greatest Generation's collective sacrifice.

They Called Him Marvin is available on Amazon.

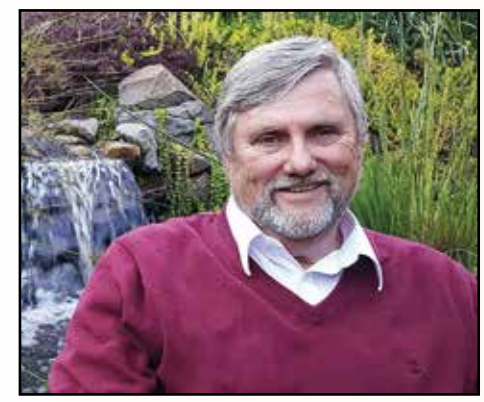


Photo via Amazon.com

Author Roger Stark has also written *Reclaiming Your Addicted Brain* **and** *The Waterfall Concept.*

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What's Cooking?

By Katherine Ogden

HOLIDAY TREATS

Grandma's Pumpkin Spice Cookies

(yields two dozen cookies)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 spice cake mix (18 oz.)
- 1 can solid pack canned pumpkin (15 oz.)
- 1 bag dark chocolate chips (or bittersweet 60% cacao chips)

Photo by erinliveswhole.com

Pumpkin spice cookies are a delectable fall treat.

We love the holidays. We love the get-togethers and the celebrations and the food. But if you're like us, you don't love all the calories that come with it!

Throughout the years, we've been searching for healthier ways to celebrate while cutting down a little on the sugar and calorie overload.

This is one of the easiest pumpkin cookie recipes I've ever made. If you like your cookies a little more "cakey," these are perfect! I've made them for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. My children and grandchildren have both just started calling them 'Grandma's cookies' and they'll even send me photos of them whipping up some. These cookies are low in fat and taste great.

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

STEP 2: In large bowl, stir together ingredients until well blended. Drop by rounded tablespoonsful onto lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake for 18-20 minutes in preheated oven.

STEP 3: Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

NOTE: If you put them in a plastic bag, they will tend to get damp, like salad does, because they are made with real vegetables. They need to 'breath' a little to dry out.

Because we're trying to cut down on sugar while accommodating a family member who is lactose intolerant, we've found even more dessert options and ice cream substitutes—such as our banana smoothie. With fresh ingredients and fewer chemicals, it's a sweet treat that's healthier than ice cream!

Basic Banana Smoothie/ Peppermint "Ice Cream" Substitute

INGREDIENTS:

- 3-4 sliced frozen bananas
- 2 scoops vanilla protein powder
- 1 ¾ cup almond, vanilla soy or rice milk
- 2 heaping tbsp peanut butter (option: can substitute coconut cream)
- For peppermint option: 2-4 drops each of red food coloring and peppermint flavoring

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Blend ingredients in blender.

STEP 2: Pour into dessert dishes and place in freezer.

STEP 3: Let sit at room temperature for 15 minutes before serving.

STEP 4: Sprinkle crushed candy cane for garnish. Serves 4-6

HINT: This can also be made with chocolate protein powder and chocolate chip garnish, too!

Christmas is coming - and so is my stress about holiday meals and staying within budget!
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Seasons of Gratitude & Giving

Family History

By Lynne Tolman

My husband and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. The unofficial theme was memories. We had displays and decorations that recalled our past 50 years together. This caused me to stop and think about all of the history and stories that we shared that weekend with family and friends. I also wondered how to make those stories last longer. I wrote 50 short stories that each had a picture attached to the back. Could these stories be uploaded to a blog, and could some of them go on Family Search?

Now that I have you thinking, let's turn our hearts and minds to the current month. How many things do we have to be grateful for?—one, two, or too many to count? One year we decided that each member of the family would write down five things each day that they were thankful for without repeating anything. That is 150 things. It was tough going at the end, but we became so much more aware of the tremendous blessings we have. We have each been given trials, but each of those trials has brought us many blessings. Take the opportunity to remember and record those blessings, then share them with others.

Photo by Anemone123 from Pixabay

The holiday season can help link generations.

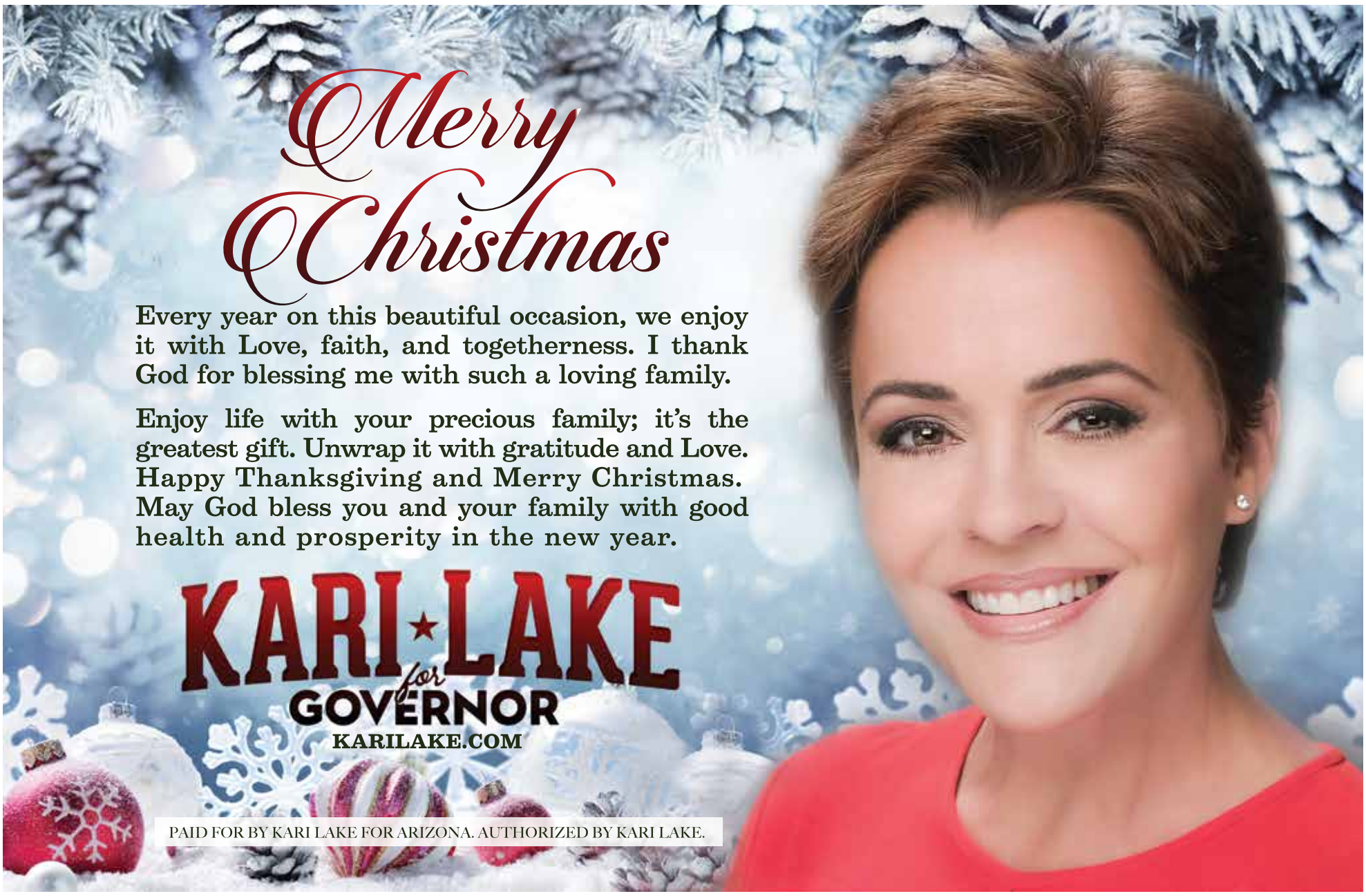
Photo by Bob Dmyt from Pixabay

Memories make thoughtful family gifts.

Now to the big question: Christmas. What can we give that has meaning? My mom is in an assisted living place with her own room. Her space is limited. What can we give her? A small package with 25 little gifts. The gifts vary: a story, a small decoration for her small tree, a gift certificate, a recording from the family. Opening something every day will help her to not feel forgotten. I am having each one of my children and grandchildren contribute a little story they remember about their time with her to this special memory box.

Have you taken the time to sit down and ask your parents or grandparents questions? Your phone is a great resource for tackling simple questions and answers that can be added right to familysearch.org. Ask the grandkids to help you. They probably know how. Have you written down the family stories that have been told and retold but never recorded? My grandfather had a band and he was the piano layer for the band. I don't think that is written anywhere. When was the last time you shared a priceless picture with members of your family? I recently found a picture of my dad mowing the lawn while wearing pajamas and Monty Python boots with a ceramic goose sitting on the lawn mower. There has to be a story behind this picture and I want to find out what it is.

Figure out fun ways to make Christmas presents out of these types of things. As you do, you will draw your family closer. You will help them realize that they can do hard things also. You will share the precious gift of love and family.


Merry Christmas
Every year on this beautiful occasion, we enjoy it with Love, faith, and togetherness. I thank God for blessing me with such a loving family.
Enjoy life with your precious family; it's the greatest gift. Unwrap it with gratitude and Love. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. May God bless you and your family with good health and prosperity in the new year.
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CONNECTED TEMPE

Tempe, Arizona Sesquicentennial Family History Project

By Mckell Keeney

Chances are you're related to Charles Trumbull Hayden, founder of Tempe, and many early residents, even if you're not from Arizona. Don't believe me? Go to our interactive site to see which historic Tempeans are on your list and how you connect. But first, read on to find out how we created this cool tool to help people find Tempe connections!

Connected Tempe is a project to help people find relatives in Tempe history, find living relatives and find their family. Our community volunteers are passionate about preserving, enriching and sharing local family history. Our goal is to honor the multicultural history of Tempe by recording memories and contributing memories to the FamilySearch Tree for future generations.

The project was sparked by Tempe's 2021 Sesquicentennial birthday celebration. It has been 150 years since Charles Trumbull Hayden set up a ferry across the Salt River.

First, we gathered names of people who lived in Tempe between 1871 and 1910 from many sources, making sure they were in the FamilySearch tree for future generations. How many people could there be who were not in the family tree? How many stories, records and photos could we find to attach to people and enrich their history? The answers? Hundreds and thousands!

Along the way, we made new friends in the community. Mike and Debbie Ostler, who volunteer at the Tempe Family History Center, became a driving force to help the project in every aspect. One day, Mike felt impressed to talk to a stranger at the grocery store about Connected Tempe and that is how he met Bill Loughrige, who became an avid volunteer. Bill thought it was imperative to collect oral histories, so we took on an additional, compelling goal: record life stories of Tempeans, from old-time families to current leaders. Our Thursday night meetings at the Pyle Center in Tempe became interview nights.

Dr. Duane Roen, ASU professor and family history workshop instructor, caught the vision. He, Loughrige, Michelle Hirsch and others interview Tempeans each week. Over 30 videos are available to view on YouTube, with more to come.

Other partners on the project include the Tempe History Museum and the Tempe History Society. We conferred with Dr. Joe Price, of the BYU Record Linking Lab, who assists people around the world with "one-place" projects like ours. We were asked by FamilySearch to be a pilot program for community reconstitution. One of their developers created an interactive tool for people to access the results of the family tree work done by our incredible volunteers. Enter a deceased ancestor and see to whom you are related in Tempe history, along with fun facts. It works even for those who don't have a FamilySearch account; invite your friends to give it a go!

The fruits of the project are found in the experiences of those who feel the pull of history as they work on the tree, or are interviewed for the project.

"I marvel each week as I hear of role models who have shaped people with empathy, compassion, service and sacrifice," says Roen. Find your Tempe family and be inspired with Connected Tempe.

Webapp: ConnectedTempe.surge.sh

Find Connected Tempe on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and JustServe.

Photo by Dave Keeney

Connected Tempe Volunteers. Left to right: Debbier Ostler, Mike Ostler, Mckell Keeney, Steve Bowles, Keith Morgan, Debbie Painter Lolling, Michelle Hirsch, Rosalie Lopez Hirano.

Photo courtesy of the Tempe History Museum

Mill Avenue, looking south from 3rd Street, about 1900.

Stories Behind the Stars
Continued from pg. 20

it's meaningful."

The communications team went about looking for ways stake members could give of their time, talent and treasure, Giovanini-Davis said, and SBTS fit the bill for donating talent. During the ongoing pandemic, it's also a way to serve from home.

Chisum, a retired Arizona State University professor, shared that of the 407,000-plus soldiers who were killed, 2,100 are from Arizona. On of the day of the presentation, 79 stories had been collected. The initiative is currently developing an app that will pull up one of these stories, along with photos, when a gravestone or some other marker is scanned.

Anybody interested in compiling these stories should go through him, he said, to make sure there isn't more than one person working on the same soldier. He also encouraged attendees to select stories that would interest them.

Fifteen-year-old Taggart Lorenzana from the Shamrock Farms Ward attended the presentation with his mother.

"I thought that was a pretty cool thing that you can go back in time, search about these families and family members and hear their stories," he said.

At the end of his presentation, Chisum invited participants to be creative in writing their stories and to have fun.

"You have different authors putting their own spin on it. Please do so. Don't write like me; write like you," he said. "Every story I go into, I look at it like this: If he was my grandfather, what would I want the other people to know about him? What tells a story about their life, the aspirations?

"You have the opportunity bringing back somebody that's been lost, and how you do it, what you write about, is really up to you," he added.

For more information, please visit https://www.storiesbehindthestars.org/

Photo by Tony Gutiérrez

Terry Giovanini-Davis, communications director for the Gilbert Seville Stake, thanks participants for attending a Stories Behind the Stars presentation Sept. 11 at the stake's Lemon church building in Queen Creek.

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VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Mesa Arizona Temple

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The Mesa Arizona Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be rededicated Sunday, December 12, 2021. President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency will preside at the temple's rededication. The temple will be rededicated in three sessions, including 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. The public open house continues through Saturday, November 20, except for Sundays, including October 17, 24 and 31, and November 7 and 14. To make a reservation to attend the Mesa Arizona Temple Open House, please visitwww.mesatemple.org.

Gilbert Arizona and Phoenix Arizona Temples are Now in Phase 3:

TEMPLES OPEN FOR ALL LIVING ORDINANCES AND LIMITED PROXY ORDINANCES—Based on First Presidency direction, this temple has resumed limited operations. At this time, all living ordinances and limited proxy ordinances are being performed. All ordinances will be performed by appointment only and proxy ordinances may be limited to members residing in this designated temple district. For these ordinances, the temple will have reduced staff and the number of guests may be limited. To schedule an appointment, please click the appointment link below. If you are unable to use the online scheduling system, please contact the temple. Temples may only have limited clothing available, so patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing. Patron housing and cafeteria services may be open but with limited services. All government guidelines will be observed, including regulations related to travel, gatherings, sanitization, and safety. Please contact the temple for more information.

Gilbert Arizona Temple: https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/gilbert-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-$cid_1

Phoenix Arizona Temple: https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/phoenix-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-$cid_2

Gilbert Arizona Temple

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LIMITED OPERATIONS AS OF NOV 9, 2020:
2021 Temple Closures

Monday, 4 October - Monday, 22 November
Wednesday, 24 November - Thursday, 25 November
Friday, 24 December - Saturday, 25 December
Friday, 31 December

Please check https://www.churchofjesus-christ.org/temples regularly for updates.

Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310
(623) 474-9500

LIMITED OPERATIONS AS OF NOV 9, 2020:
2021 Temple Closures

Monday, 22 November - Monday, 17 January 2022

Please check https://www.churchofjesus-christ.org/temples regularly for updates.

JUSTSERVE

By Hillary Jade Fevrier

Arizona Housing Inc.

Providing Hope and Housing for the Holidays

Every year, pandemic or not, people around the world gather to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. While it is very normal to celebrate the holidays with those who matter to us, do we ever stop to consider those living without this possibility? Matthew 8:20 reads, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Likely, most readers of this article cannot understand what it means to be homeless, yet the most powerful and perfect person who ever lived on Earth can.

Simple ways to make a big difference.

Photo courtesy of Arizona Housing Inc.

Homelessness is a serious problem in the Valley, but the team at Arizona Housing Inc. is doing its part to relieve the suffering of those in need. The organization was founded in 1995 with the aim of offering hope to people who had lost theirs. In 1997, AHI opened its first location. There, individuals had access to permanent, affordable, supportive housing. The founders of AHI believed that this was the solution to ending chronic homelessness. As of 2020, AHI has grown to owning five multi-family properties, totaling 616 units of housing solutions for individuals and families.

During this special time of year, Arizona Housing Inc. believes that everyone deserves to celebrate, housing status notwithstanding. The Home for the Holidays program gifts necessities as well as some favorite holiday presents to the tenants at Arizona Housing Inc. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, things look a little different than they would ordinarily; however, AHI still has big plans up its sleeves. In order to provide patrons with a memorable Christmas, AHI is providing its services in a modified fashion: rather than gathering the community for its traditional party, family units will come individually and receive their presents and other supplies, then return to their housing units to enjoy them.

Volunteers will play a huge role in the Home for the Holidays program this year. AHI is looking for individuals or groups to host donation drives and put together kits that can then be delivered to the AHI properties and distributed to the tenants. Items of greatest need are identified on the website at https://www.azhousinginc.org/wish-list.html. In addition to Home for the Holidays, Arizona Housing Inc. wants readers to know that they can give to AHI through tax deductible donations, Amazon Smile or Fry's grocery stores. Visit https://www.azhousinginc.org/help-today.html for more information.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we often look for ways to serve like He did, particularly at this special time of year when we celebrate His birth and His life. Few opportunities could make a bigger impact than volunteering with Arizona Housing Inc. Only with partnerships and volunteers from the community can AHI succeed in its cause. Only with the support from the community can tenants enjoy a harmonious holiday season, often for the very first time in their life. Together with Arizona Housing Inc, we can make a difference so that fewer people have "where to lay [their] head" this Christmas.

Photo courtesy of Arizona Housing Inc.

Arizona Housing Inc. wouldn't be possible without its volunteers.

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